THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

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DNR Reports...

Peregrine Falcons have received recent media attention on a number of fronts. The loss of Blythe, the female Peregrine at the USF&G Building in Baltimore, brought concern and sorrow to many birdwatchers and general public alike. Concerns were raised in the newspaper about a pair of Peregrines in Ocean City causing serious problems with other endangered or sensitive birds. And the article in a recent issue of "Birdwatchers Digest", questioning the reintroduction efforts in the mid Atlantic states, prompted me to write about Peregrine Falcon recovery efforts in Maryland.

Historically, Peregrines nested on cliff sites along the upper Potomac River and possibly along the lower Susquehanna River in Maryland. By the mid 1950s they disappeared as a breeding species here. Reproductive failure due to contamination by DDT was the reason. By 1964, Peregrines could not be found nesting anywhere in the country east of the Mississippi River.

In the early 1970s an ambitious effort was initiated to restore Peregrine Falcons to the eastern U.S. The Peregrine Fund, a private group based at Cornell University in New York State, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service started captively producing Peregrines. Back then, endangered species conservation was focused on saving the species from extinction and did not fully appreciate conservation of genetic integrity, so a number subspecies were interbred as part of the captive rearing process. As a result, the Peregrines raised and eventually released were not pure eastern North American strain, known as *Falco peregrinus anatum.*

These young falcons were released into the wild by a technique called hacking. How this worked was, 2-3 week old young were placed at a hack site in a large nest box and kept in the box until they were ready to fledge. They were fed quail or other birds by human attendants through a tube in the back of the box so the young never saw the attendants with the food, and thus did not associate people with food. When the young were ready to fly, the bars across the front of the box were removed and the young were freed. They than had to learn to feed on their own.

Original hacking efforts occurred at cliff sites. However, it was soon learned that the young falcons were easy prey for Great Horned Owls in the absence of adult Peregrines. A shift was made from these cliff sites to artificial sites, essentially special towers, in coastal environments. In addition to being relatively devoid of Great

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Board of Directors Meeting April 18, 1992

The meeting was called to order by John Malcolm, President, at 10:10 AM.

The minutes to the December 7, 1991 meeting were accepted as written.

Research Committee Report- The committee met to delineate new guidelines. Papers are being reviewed for the conference. Chan Robbins has a grant for Central American work.

On May 4th the Maryland Department of Agriculture will start spraying for gypsy moths. If a field trip is planned, one can call the Dept. of Agriculture and find out where the spraying will take place. A letter with full details and phone numbers will be sent out very soon. The spraying continues until the oak leaves are 50% out.

Treasurer's Report-Copies of the financial report and budget were distributed. The books for this year will be closed April 30, 1992. Emily Joyce requests that all bills be submitted to her BEFORE that date. Most of the bills for this year have been paid already. Emily Joyce explained that the insurance payment was split between Operating Fund and Sanctuary as it covers both areas. Scholarships have been awarded for a total of $4,440.00.

Executive Secretary's Report- The **Yellow Book** has been reprinted and is available. The price is $1.00, and each chapter president was supplied some.

At this time it is not known whether DNR will do another calendar. If they do, is the membership interested in these calendars? There were certain negatives - postage was expensive, they don't come early enough, the Kent Chapter calendar is a good alternative and all proceeds from that go to Rain Forest Preservation. It was decided

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1992 Conference

The 1992 State Conference of the MOS hosted by the Wicomico Chapter will be held August 14-16, 1992 on the lovely campus of Salisbury State University in Salisbury, Maryland. The annual business meeting, including the election of next year's officers, will be held Saturday evening, August 15. The Conference will also feature a guest speaker, presentation of research papers, a tour of the new Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, opportunities to browse through and purchase birding books and optics, and field trips to favorite birding sites on the Eastern Shore. Fall shorebird migration will be well underway in mid-August and trips to areas such as Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge will highlight this migration. Conference participants will also have the opportunity (at an additional cost of $75) to attend a pelagic field trip run by Atlantic Seabirds on Saturday. (More information and a registration form for the Atlantic Seabirds cruise will be included in the conference brochure). The conference brochure outlining activities, facilities and costs should reach members by mid-June. Registration deadline is Friday, July 24. Hope to see you in Salisbury in August!

DNR

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Horned Owls, these areas provided a greater availability of prey for the young falcons to learn to hunt. The hope was that these birds would eventually nest on traditional cliff sites.

In Maryland, the first hacking attempts occurred on Aberdeen Proving Ground property in 1975. However, because of owl problems releases in Maryland were shifted to towers erected on salt marshes on the lower Eastern Shore. Between 1980 and 1985, a total of 26 young were hacked from these towers. Similar efforts occurred in the salt marshes of Virginia and New Jersey.

From these efforts, Peregrine Falcons started nesting again in Maryland. The first wild nestings occurred in 1983 at the Bay Bridge and on one of the Eastern Shore towers. Last year, the number of pairs increased to eight. All of our nesting occurs on artificial sites, none on natural cliffs.

Was the establishment of this coastal population wrong or right? The answer is open to debate. We do know that these coastal pairs are resident and do defend their territories against Peregrines migrating in the fall along the barrier islands, causing injury to some of these Greenland birds. For this reason we are not encouraging the establishment of nesting Peregrines in coastal Worcester County. A pair has taken up residence in Ocean City, but we are not actively encouraging them to nest. We are not discouraging them either. We are monitoring their prey selection periodically to see if they are killing Piping Plovers, Least Terns, or Black Skimmers. Conservation of endangered species has evolved over the last 20 years, in part based on experience, to include genetic and environmentally based decisions. Live and learn!

I think the reintroduction efforts in Maryland provided many benefits to Peregrines, birdwatchers, Maryland citizens, and the environmental movement. Your life bird may have been a result of this effort. Our urban pairs have brought tremendous public awareness to endangered species and the environment. Incidently, Peregrines nested in eastern cities prior to their extirpation by the 1960s. Our responsibility is now to ensure that this endangered species does not adversely effect the populations of other rare or endangered birds.

Glenn Therres

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that John Malcolm would send a letter to DNR asking that they deal directly with each chapter by mailing the calendars to the chapter, giving the chapter the address to mail surplus and money back and getting all this to each chapter at a date early enough to be useful. The Executive Committee can decide on the Kent Chapter calendars at a later date.

Budget Committee- Norm Chamberlin has retired. Emily Joyce has filled in and provided a copy of the budget. In the budget is an item for $1,000 for Education Committee. This was put in the budget in the hope that a Junior Nature Camp might be possible if a Chairman can be found to get this moving. The budget was then submitted for approval and approved.

By-Laws Committee-Changes in the By-Laws were approved by the board at the May 25th, 1991 meeting. However one change was not in the printed copies sent out. This change is as follows: Article VII, Board of Directors, Section 3.

Remove the clause, "adopt a budget for the current fiscal year;" from the second sentence which begins "At its initial meeting..."

Insert the clause, "adopt a budget-for the next fiscal-year;" into the third sentence which begins "At its concluding meeting..." This change will be voted on at the next meeting.

Conference Committee Report-The contract with Salisbury State College is ready to sign. A list of potential field trips is being put together. The brochure will be mailed by mid-May. There will be an insert regarding a pelagic trip with a separate coupon. This will cost $75.00 per person and after July 15th will be opened to other than MOS participants. Sybil Williams is in charge of the silent auction. Please call her at 301-762-0560 with donations. Bring all the items to the conference for her. Volunteers are needed to work the registration desk and the silent auction. Graham Edgerton would like a volunteer for working the raffle on Saturday.

The board approved Hood College for the 1993 Conference, however the college won't know until July whether the time we want will be available. Frostburg College is the alternative about which we should hear later this month.

In 1994 we hope to go to North East. There is a site that Bill Murphy located. It is a beautiful facility with a possible draw back in that as a Church Camp it does not allow any smoking or alcohol on the premises.

The MOS 50th anniversary comes up in 1995. The first conference was held in Catoctin and it may be possible to find a site there again. John Malcolm asked that we all be thinking of ways to celebrate this anniversary.

Education Committee-Still needs a Chairperson.

The Speakers List was in this committee but Phil Davis has taken this over and is updating the list. He has put together a new source document which he handed out. This is a list of speakers but they have not been contacted recently to see if they are still available. The list was given to all chapter presidents.

Long Range Planning Committee Report- Jo Solem thanked everyone for their input at the last meeting. We need to put our emphasis on youth, scholarship and sanctuary.

Sanctuary Committee Report- Bill Russell took some Boy Scouts to Irish Grove for a work day, repairing screens on the dining hall. We appreciate the Scouts effort. The next work day will be at Carey Run on April 25th to repair wind damage and general cleanup

Dottie Mumford had a map showing three sections of acreage near Irish Grove that would be donated to MOS if we are willing. The total is about 150 acres. It was moved, seconded and passed that we accept this donation. The expenses will be transfer fees, an environmental inspection,' and future property taxes.

Scholarship Committee-The names of the winners of the scholarships were read.

There was concern expressed that so few applications were submitted by other chapters. We all need to be on the look out for qualified applicants in the future.

Atlas Committee Report-Bud Taylor's original painting of Baltimore Orioles on the nest will be on the cover of the Atlas. Chan Robbins showed the board a copy of the Ohio Atlas. Ours will be very similar.

The final edition should go to the printer within a few months. The book will then be out in 1993.

The committee has been working very hard to finish the Atlas, meeting every two

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or three weeks with individuals working almost every day. **Bird Life** has been put on hold until this finished. Chan Robbins had samples of some of the maps, species accounts, etc. for members to look over.

May Count-This will be on May 9, 1992. Something new has been added to take the May Count to its logical conclusion, 35 other states will participate. Last year there were four states, Maryland, Illinois, Indiana and Delaware.

As yet there is no real organization. It would be nice to create a National Birding Day on the second Saturday in May. A National Organization is needed. Jim Stasz suggested that MOS become a part of a new nation wide group, he would call The North American Migration Society.

Nominating Committee Report- The slate to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting is as follows: President: William Newman, Baltimore Chapter; Vice-President: Allan Haury, Anne Arundel; Chapter Treasurer: Larry Fry, Harford Chapter; Secretary: Joan Stephens, (Incumbent), Jug Bay Chapter.

Records Committee Report-This committee held their annual meeting in March. All the records will be published in **Bird Life.**

Publication Committee Report- **Bird Life** needs help with production. The Index has not been updated since 1969. That needs to be done again.

Dan & Linda Southworth have volunteered to do the season reports. Reports can be sent to Bob Ringler for the time being as he eases the Southworths into the program.

Gifts Committee Report- There have been a number of gifts and bequests recently totaling $131,000.00, approximately. Gifts and Long Range Planning looked at various projects and seven were singled out: Re issue the **Yellow Book,** Fund a Junior Nature Camp, Purchase additional sanctuary property, Put away seed money for the next Atlas, Expand the research endowment, Expand the scholarship endowment.

The two endowments have had additional funds added, the **Yellow Book** has been re-issued without up-date and is being updated. There is no urgent demand for these uncommitted funds. The future of the Society is a high priority. Members need to be better informed about all our activities. Publicizing MOS by funding a brochure to describe the organization and provide a way to join is a very high priority. Gifts suggest allocating these funds as follows:

$50,000 add to scholarship endowment

$20,000 add to operating fund for various purposes including Junior Nature Camp, brochures, additional **Yellow Books**,etc.

$60,000 held in reserve.

$1,000 for the Rain Forest

Emily Joyce and Jane Farrell suggest that Rain Forest is not a good idea as these gifts and bequests should be used in Maryland. There was much discussion regarding these ideas. The money does not have to committed at this time as the income is available for projects that the board approves. Chairpersons can ask for specific projects to be funded. Chairpersons have already submitted their budget requests for the coming fiscal year but as needs come up, funds can be requested and approved by the board. One reason given for committing the funds is that the IRS does not like large amount of uncommitted funds in operating funds for tax exempt organizations.

It would help the Scholarship Committee to have money available and not have to depend on donation.

The anticipated expenses of the sanctuaries are always more than the income from the endowments. Sanctuary needs to be endowed to cover existing sanctuaries, however we are unable to raise the money to purchase additional sanctuaries.

Scholarship and Research should be set up so that they can operate without depending on donations.

The rate of return on the pooled funds is low and needs to be changed to a higher yield program. Table this until a later date.

Conservation Committee Report-The re-authorization for Federal Laws are being worked on at present and these are critical issues.

The re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act is going thru a national review. This was landmark legislation to protect birds, other animals and habitat.

The re-definition of wetlands in the Clean Water act. National Audubon is working on this and we all need to support their effort. They can give you more information if you write them as follows: National Audubon, Wildlife Department, 666 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003. No organization has made this a lead item, we need to write all and find out what each group is doing.

HB 4045 has to do with old growth forest and review of timber industry uses. Texas coastal areas are in jeopardy. We need to show that the spotted owl is an indicator species and more than just the owl is at stake. American for Ancient Forest Protection is a group concerned with this.

The Presidents Council on Competitiveness chaired by Dan Quale is trying to reduce regulations on wetland uses and forests. When the policy manual was written in 1987 and 1989 a lot of non-tidal wetlands came under regulation. The industry has risen up in protest. During the public comment period about 70,000 were received. There is a lack of firm direction from the Presidents Council but this must be monitored closely. If a retreat from the regulations seems likely we must contact our Senators and Representatives and urge them to pass HR 4255. A reinterpretation by the White House could be overturned by Congress.

The Supreme Court case regarding "taking" could be a disaster for the environment. This case is a suit by a landowner against the state to reimburse the landowner for losses sustained when he became unable to use his property due to zoning which eliminated building in certain flood or dune areas. The draft of the environmental impact statement on Chincoteague is out. The public comment period ends May 1, 1992. Members can send their written support to: John Schroer, Refuge Manager, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 62, Chincoteague, VA 23336.

There are four major areas to consider and support:

1- The shore line must be protected for the resting, nesting and feeding ground of the piping plover.

2- Emphasis on wildlife related activities.

3- Move headquarters to higher, more stable and protected ground.

4- Support the Master Plan- Action Alternative Section IV The dedication of the Ft. Meade property transferred from Defense Dept. to Depart. of Interior took place on April 3, 1992. Almost the entire surplus acreage at Ft. Meade was included.

A new area at the Fran Uhler site will be dedicated May 2, 1992. There is a reservation form that must be shown and one must RSVP. The proposed burning of mustard gas at Aberdeen is being watched closely. Local chapters need to find out

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what will be done with the incinerator when the mustard gas is gone.

The biggest state success was the funding of Project Open Space through bonds. We all should thank our legislators for funding this very important program.

The Savage River Management Plan has been distributed for review. DNR should get credit for standing up to the timber industry on this.

Belt Woods is the local issue that must be watched. It is the last stand of virgin timber in this area. There have been plans to build on adjacent property.

In 1991 over 2500 blue birds boxes were put up and over 5000 birds fledged.

A very good article on the placement of wood duck boxes to avoid "dumping" was in the Spring 1992 issue of Living Bird.

Old Business-The Rain Forest donations have been sent to the Program for Belize. For each $50 they buy and preserve one acre. Our $2,600 will buy and preserve 52 acres

New Business-John Malcolm asked Rich Dolesh to look into a new ways to publicize MOS. Two types of brochure should be available. A small single sheet with a point of contact address, general information about MOS and an insert with current membership information and dues. The insert could be changed by a chapter to show current information. The questions regarding this were about a home base address. Baltimore Chapter does pick up mail at Cylburn twice a week, oftener if necessary. How many would we need. That depends on cost. Rich Dolesh has preliminary figures of about 5000 for under $1,000.

It was moved, seconded and passed to use $1,000 from the uncommitted funds for this project.

A second item is a Presentation Brochure that would have be a glossy type folder with two pockets and inserts. There could be separate sheets on Research, Scholarship Atlas etc. This would be a high quality impressive item for a presentation to use in applying for grants, lobbying, asking for donations, etc. In terms of cost $2,500 might do 1000.

Some members felt a glossy image was not MOS. The binder with inserts has the advantage of keeping all information together. It should be good looking, doesn't need to be too "glossy".

It was moved and seconded and passed that $2,500 of the uncommitted funds be allocated for this project.

Bill Kulp, Jr., President of Montgomery Chapter, proposed on behalf of Bryon Swift that MOS buy mailing lists from other conservation and bird organizations. This would run about 33 per name. The return on unsolicited mail is very low. A one time shot at membership may not be the way to go. The flyer, already authorized, can be distributed at various nature centers such as, Sandy Point, Assateague, and parks in Maryland. We are not reaching people in Maryland. Our current membership in terms of households is about 1650.

Anne Arundel Chapter advertises in the local paper, *Penny Saver*. These ads are free.

There were many objections to a mass mailing. We should make sure that MOS is listed in local Audubon and Sierra Club news letters.

This was tabled until a future meeting. Chan Robbins announced that the next Atlas will start between the year 2000 and 2005. The biggest problem starting the Atlas this time was money. He suggested about $20,000 to be put aside now for that purpose. It was moved and seconded that we put aside $20,000 from the uncommitted funds for the future Atlas. The vote was 19 yes and 14 no. The motion passed.

The **Yellow Book** printing was 1500 copies of which 500 were sold at this meeting. The plates will be maintained for seven years. It would cost $1,075 to reprint 1000, $1,750 to reprint 2000 at this time. It was decided not to reprint at this time. Recycled paper is now available for **Bird Life.** This would add about $150 per year to the cost. John Malcolm, President, directed that publications be printed on recycled paper. Soybean based ink is less polluting and should cost no more. This was to be looked into.

A suggestion was made to print the ***Yellowthroat*** on white paper as that can be recycled.

Legal issues were raised. If there were an injury on a trip and MOS was sued our liability insurance would cover but we may need a lawyer also. A lawyer on a pro bono basis or on retainer or some kind of contract seems to be necessary in this litigious age. A proposal will be worked up for next meeting.

It was moved, seconded and passed that all proceeds from the silent auction and raffle go to the Rain Forest.

This passed. John Malcolm is forming a planning committee for the 1995 50th Anniversary. Any Chairperson who has a project they would like funded must get the proposal to Richard Cleveland **in writing** by June 30th. A list of these proposals will be sent to each board member by July 30th to be voted on at the August 1992 meeting.

The Ft. Meade property added to Patuxent Research Center can be accessed from Rt 198. The gate opens at 9 a.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. on Saturday. There is a sign-in center. There is unexploded ordnance there but the roads are safe...stay on them.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40PM.

Respectfully submitted
Joan Stephens
Secretary

The MOS Research Fund is Growing - Please Help!

The MOS Research Committee is actively seeking contributions to increase its endowment this year. Many of the requests for grants are larger than we could fund in prior years. The Research Committee wants to increase the research money available each year. You can help support studies of Maryland birds by contributing to the MOS Research Fund. Send checks made payable to

The MOS Research Fund
The Maryland Ornithological Society
Cylburn Mansion
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209-4698.